



**European Cooperation
in the field of Scientific
and Technical Research
- COST -**

Secretariat

Brussels, 15 June 2006

COST 253/06

NOTE

From : COST Secretariat

To : COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)

Subject : Agenda item 16
-COST/EUREKA - Synergy

Delegations will find attached a note from the secretariat, which has been examined by the JAF Group at its meeting on 10/11 May 2006, on possibilities of common activities between COST and EUREKA.

EUREKA - COST

Possibilities of Common Contributions to the European Competitiveness

- I. Science and technology contributes to the Lisbon objectives of economic growth, creation of employment, environmental protection and social challenges (fighting poverty, improving human health and quality of life).

The EU policy on science and technology concentrates mainly on the RTD Framework Programmes and the proposed Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme.

During several contacts between the EUREKA and COST Presidencies and their respective secretariats, it has been emphasised that both "bottom-up" frames in European RTD policy should give more effort to making their contributions to the Lisbon agenda visible. In that respect, the question has also been raised as to whether concrete examples of cooperation between EUREKA and COST that has led to significant results could be presented at the level of a Ministerial Conference.

In this context, it is recalled that the Council of the EU at several meetings of recent Competitiveness Councils stressed the importance of reinforcing the ties between the RTD Framework Programme and European intergovernmental organisations such as EUREKA and COST. Likewise, the latest Ministerial Conferences of EUREKA (Prague 2006)¹ and COST (Dubrovnik 2003) advocated in their conclusions a closer synergy between the two frames.

¹ The communique adopted at the above conference states in an alinea under item 1, from "Paris to Prague and beyond", explicitly: "The Ministerial Conference welcomed the success of the Czech Chairmanship in building bridges between EUREKA and other important players in the field of European research and innovation, such as COST."

II. Meanwhile, mutual presentations by their Presidencies have taken place at the level of EUREKA's High Level Group and COST's Senior Officials Committee. Equally, a regular exchange of information continues to take place at the level of specific domains. The EUREKA secretariat prepared an updated state of affairs on these activities, which show that both frames meet on several projects concerning:

- environment
- materials
- agriculture, food
- information technology
- transport.

III. The Czech Presidency of EUREKA has proposed to identify an example of an Action launched in COST that could be further continued in EUREKA. Bearing in mind the grosso modo similar characteristics of COST and EUREKA, COST, as a precursor of scientific ideas, may endeavour to develop its role in terms of transferring ideas to the industrially-oriented network of EUREKA.

From the present forms of cooperation between EUREKA and COST, COST Action 529 on "Efficient Lighting for the 21st Century" has been selected as a possible illustration of an European research project involving industrial cooperation and likely to contribute at some stage to European competitiveness.

IV. It has been agreed with the Czech presidency of EUREKA that prof George Zissis, Chair of the management committee of COST Action 529, participated at the Ministerial Conference in Prague, 9 June 2006, to explain the development of the "COST lamp" emerged from that Action to delegates interested in the subject.

Moreover, it has been agreed that a small COST-delegation (Presidency, Secretariat and COST Office) attended the EUREKA ministerial conference.

V. As to other and more structured possibilities of cooperation between COST and EUREKA, the JAF-group considered the following.

Whereas a regular contact between the Secretariats exists over the years, and whereas the COST office is also meeting representatives of the EUREKA secretariat, there might be little need for the creation of a High Level body COST : EUREKA. Given the fact that several members of the CSO fulfil equal positions in the steering committees of EUREKA, a cooperation and information flows are guaranteed.

Building on the statements of several delegations at the above conference that both frames - Italy takes over the Presidency of EUREKA from, July 2006 - will be in the hands of Italy, it is encouraged that the Presidency investigates further ways and methods to reach tangible synergies between COST and EUREKA with the perspective of contributing to European competitiveness.

A number of suggestions from the Presidency are given in the Annex to this Note.

COST-EUREKA SYNERGY**1. Ministerial Conferences.**

EUREKA holds a Conference every two years.

COST could have a Conference every four years in conjunction with an EUREKA Conference.

2. EUREKA HLG - COST JAF

Regular meetings (once a year ?)

3. Tranfer of results

- Participation of representatives of EUREKA in the annual joint meeting of COST Action Chairs with members of COST DCs where the Progress Reports are presented
- Participation of EUREKA representatives in an annual meeting organized by the COST Office where for each COST Domain the results of the COST Actions completed in the previous year are presented.
